

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 and 40-44 are pending in the application after this amendment. Claims 1, 10, 23, 26, 31, 35, 37, and 40 have been amended. The amendment of claims is not to be considered in any way an indication of applicant's position on the merits of the amended claims. Claims 12, 15, 19, and 20 have been allowed and claim 10 has been indicated as having allowable subject matter (and has been put in independent form to put it in a condition for allowance). In the following sections of the Amendment the rejections set forth by the Examiner in the November 1, 2004, Office action are addressed. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and detailed arguments are set forth below.

The Examiner has indicated that previously pending claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has made these amendments for the purpose of furthering prosecution, but reserves the right to file continuation applications. Based on this amendments, applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-9, 11, 13, 14, 21-28, 30-33, 35-37, and 40-44 as anticipated over U.S. Patent No. 5,883,983 to Lee (the "'983 Lee reference"), claims 16-18, 29, and 34 as obvious over the '983 Lee reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,774,599 to Muka et al. (the "Muka reference"), and claim 5 as obvious over the '983 Lee reference in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0097439A1 to Braica (the "Braica reference").

Applicant specifically notes that the amendments in this response in are in no way an admission that the edge enhancement filter 90 teaches or suggests the claimed edge sharpening filter. Applicant specifically notes that the amendments in this response in are in no way an admission that the '983 Lee reference teaches or suggests simultaneously performing de-ringing and edge sharpening. Applicant specifically notes that the amendments in this response in are in no way an admission that the '983 Lee reference can be combined with the Muka reference, the Braica

reference, or any other reference to obviate the claimed invention. Applicant reserves the right to present substantive arguments to the Examiner's rejections based on the '983 Lee reference and any reference with which it may be combined in continuation applications.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 23, 31, 35, and 37 to specifically recite that non-edge pixels substantially surrounded by visual edge pixels receive no post-processing. This subject matter was specifically set forth in Table 1 on page 11 of the originally filed application. Applicant has made these amendments for the purpose of furthering prosecution, but reserves the right to file continuation applications. Based on these amendments, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 23, 31, 35, and 37 are now in condition for allowance. The claims dependent on independent claims 1, 23, 31, 35, and 37 are allowable as they include the subject matter of their respective independent claims. Additional limitations in the dependent claims may also provide patentable subject matter and applicant reserves the right to present evidence of such patentable subject matter if necessary.

Because it is relevant to the amendments of the independent claims, applicant would like to point out that in his rejection to previously pending claim 26, the Examiner incorrectly states that the '983 Lee reference discloses the step of sorting a *non-edge* pixel for no filtering. The '983 Lee reference specifically states at column 5, lines 15-17 the following: "If the central point "11" of the filter window shown in FIG. 2A is an *edge point*, the weighted filter 80 does not perform a filtering operation for the central point." (Emphasis added.) In other words, the section of the '983 Lee reference cited by the Examiner discloses that an *edge point* might not be filtered by the weighted filter 80. Original claim 26, on the other hand, specifically stated that a *non-edge pixel* is not filtered.

Applicant submits herewith a new Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) reference with a foreign reference that applicant believes is no more relevant than those references previously submitted, but applicant is disclosing for purposes of completeness. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), this Information Disclosure

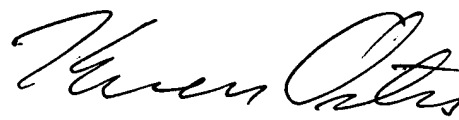
Application No. 09/881,384
Amendment dated January 17, 2005
Reply to Office action of November 1, 2004

Statement is being submitted before the mailing date of any of a final action under §1.1113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. This Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by the fee set forth in §1.17(p). In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement will not be regarded as an admission that any patent or patents, or other art referred to herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability under 37 CFR §1.56(b) unless specifically designated as such. A list of the patent enclosed herewith is set forth on the attached single page of Form PTO/SB/08A.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and remarks, and early notice of allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2115 for any additional fees which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,



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